

Public Law 102-134  
102d Congress

Joint Resolution

Designating October 16, 1991, and October 16, 1992, each as "World Food Day".

Oct. 21, 1991  
[H.J. Res. 230]

Whereas hunger and malnutrition remain daily facts of life for hundreds of millions of people in the world;

Whereas the children of the world suffer the most serious effects of hunger and malnutrition, with millions of children dying each year from hunger-related illness and disease, and many others suffering permanent physical or mental impairment because of vitamin or protein deficiencies;

Whereas the United States has a long tradition of demonstrating humanitarian concern for the hungry and malnourished people of the world;

Whereas there is growing concern in the United States and in other countries for environmental protection and the dangers posed to future food security from misuse and overuse of precious natural resources of land, air, and water and the subsequent degradation of the biosphere;

Whereas efforts to resolve the world hunger problem are critical to the maintenance of world peace and, therefore, to the security of the United States;

Whereas the United States plays a major role in the development and implementation of interregional food and agricultural trade standards and practices, and recognizes the positive role that food trade can play in enhancing human nutrition and in the alleviation of hunger;

Whereas the United States, as the largest producer and trader of food in the world, plays a key role in assisting countries and people to improve their ability to feed themselves;

Whereas although progress has been made in reducing the incidence of hunger and malnutrition in the United States, certain groups, notably Native Americans, migrant workers, the elderly, the homeless, and children, remain vulnerable to malnutrition and related diseases;

Whereas the Congress is acutely aware of the paradox of enormous surplus production capacity in the United States despite the desperate need for food by people throughout the world;

Whereas the United States and other countries should develop and continually evaluate national policies concerning food and nutrition to achieve the well-being and protection of all people and particularly those most vulnerable to malnutrition and related diseases;

Whereas the Congress is aware and fully supportive of the 1992 World Conference on Environment and Development and the forthcoming International Conference on Nutrition, and the influence the decisions of these conferences may have on sustainable agricultural development and human well-being;

Whereas private enterprise and the primacy of the independent family farmer have been basic to the development of an agricul-

tural economy in the United States and have made the United States capable of meeting the food needs of most of the people of the United States;

Whereas conservation of natural resources is necessary for the United States to remain the largest producer of food in the world and to continue to aid hungry and malnourished people of the world;

Whereas participation by private voluntary organizations and businesses, working with national governments and the international community, is essential in the search for ways to increase food production in developing countries and improve food distribution to hungry and malnourished people;

Whereas the member nations of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations unanimously designated October 16 of each year as World Food Day because of the need to increase public awareness of world hunger problems;

Whereas past observances of World Food Day have been supported by proclamations by the Congress, the President, the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories and possessions of the United States, and by programs of the Department of Agriculture, other Federal departments and agencies, and the governments and peoples of more than 140 other nations;

Whereas nearly 450 private voluntary organizations and thousands of community leaders are participating in the planning of World Food Day observances in 1991, and a growing number of these organizations and leaders are using such day as a focal point for year-round programs; and

Whereas the people of the United States can express their concern for the plight of hungry and malnourished people throughout the world by fasting and donating food and money for such people: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That October 16, 1991, and October 16, 1992, are each designated as "World Food Day", and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe World Food Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities, including worship services, fasting, education endeavors, and the establishment of year-round food and health programs and policies.

Approved October 21, 1991.

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LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.J. Res. 230:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 137 (1991):

Oct. 2, considered and passed House.

Oct. 8, considered and passed Senate.